

PRESS RELEASE

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New Mural Celebrates “Legends of Western Australian Motoring” at Motor Museum of Western Australia

[Whiteman, Western Australia] — Motor Museum of Western Australia has unveiled a striking new large-scale mural, paying tribute to the pioneers and icons who shaped the state’s automotive history. Created by renowned Perth artist Shakey in collaboration with ArtByDestroy, and supported by RAC, the artwork immortalises key figures whose contributions span over a century of innovation, adventure, and community service.

A Canvas of Legacy

The mural features nine instrumental figures including:

- Ernest Hackfath: RAC Patrolman No. 4, symbolising roadside resilience. Hackfath traversed WA in his Reo Junior truck, rescuing stranded drivers and pioneering road safety signage.
- The motorcycle patrolman (second from left) represents the many RAC men and women of the past and present that have assisted in the service of Western Australian road users.
- Syd Ferguson & Francis Birtles: In 1912, they completed a gruelling cross-continental journey from Fremantle to Sydney in a Model F Brush Runabout, proving the viability of long-distance motoring in Australia.
- Maurice Brockwell: A champion of WA’s motoring heritage, Brockwell along with a band of dedicated volunteers played a crucial role in establishing the Motor Museum of Western Australia at Whiteman Park, which remains a vital institution for preserving our state’s automotive history. His legacy is honoured in the museum’s Brockwell Hall.
- Daniel Ricciardo: Eight-time F1 Grand Prix champion, Perth-born Ricciardo is depicted mid - “shoey” symbolising Western Australia’s new generation of motorsports excellence. His 2014 Red Bull RB10 is on display at the museum.
- Ross Dunkerton: Five-time Australian rally champion and advocate for WA’s inclusion in the World Rally Championship, Dunkerton was awarded an OAM in 2018.
- Marion Bell: The first woman - and third person - to circumnavigate Australia in 1926. Bell navigating 10,000 miles of unsealed roads in an Oldsmobile Six, with her daughter accompanying her for the entire arduous journey.
- Percy Markham: One of Australia’s foremost antique car collectors in the 60’s, Percy Markham built a lasting legacy in the WA motoring community. His personal collection of 43 cars was once considered the most robust antique collection in Australia, before it was dispersed to various auctioneers and institutions over the decades. Several cars from the original Markham Collection make up the backbone of the Motor Museum collection today.

Painted over two weeks in challenging conditions (including 40-degree heat and thunderstorms), the mural spans corrugated iron panels using spray cans. It blends bold portraiture with WA’s landscapes, creating a visual journey through time.

Artist’s Vision

Shakey described the project as “a tribute to the legends who’ve shaped WA’s motoring story, from the early days of exploration to the world stage of racing.” He added: “We copped 40-degree days, thunderstorms, and more corrugations than the Gibb River Road”.

Community and Collaboration

RAC’s support reflects their commitment to the Motor Museum of WA and their century-long commitment to motorists.

RAC General Manager External Relations Will Golsby said it was wonderful the mural was able to capture the essence of early pioneers like Ernest Hackfath, who played a pivotal role at RAC.

“Ernest Hackfath was one of the first-ever patrol men a RAC spending his days rescuing stranded drivers and he also mapped the state’s earliest roads, erecting direction posts so drivers could find their way.

“Capturing his legacy is important so future generations can be inspired – the mural is a wonderful way to achieve that.”

Visitor Experience

The mural complements the museum’s immersive exhibits, including Ricciardo’s RB10, over 200 historic vehicles, and 15,000+ scale models (the Southern Hemisphere’s largest collection). Located in Whiteman Park, the museum is open daily from 10am–4pm.

For More Information

Naomi Fuller - Marketing Coordinator

0455 111 822 / marketing@motormuseumwa.com.au

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